

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 101200Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5371
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINR, PEPR, GR, TU, US
SUBJECT: PARTIAL TEXT OF EMBASSY TELEGRAM PUBLISHED BY PASOK
NEWSPAPER

REF: ATHENS 2205

1. EXORMISI, THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S PASOK PARTY, ON APRIL 9 PUBLISHED A PHOTOCOPY OF PORTIONS OF THE TEXT OF A CONFIDENTIAL EMBASSY ATHENS TELEGRAM OF MARCH 17, 1978. THE PURLOINED CABLE IS THE INITIAL EMBASSY REPORT THAT PAPANDREOU HAD INTRODUCED A FORGED STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION THAT SAME DAY ON THE MONTREUX SUMMIT MEETING. EXORMISI REPORTED THIS PARTIAL TEXT IN A MANNER DESIGNED TO SUGGEST THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS "PLOTING" WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO DENY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE FORGED CABLE.

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2. EXORMISI'S VERSION OF THE EMBASSY TELEGRAM IS REPRODUCED WITHOUT INCLUDING THE FIRST THREE NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS OF THE ORIGINAL (EXCEPT FOR THE FIRST THREE LINES OF PARA 1). THE EMBASSY HAD IDENTIFIED PAPANDREOU'S "TELEGRAM" AS A FORGERY IN PARAGRAPH 3 AND ASKED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION. THIS EXCLUSION WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE IMPRESSION THAT

THE TELEGRAM TABLED IN PARLIAMENT BY PAPANDREOU WAS AUTHENTIC AND THAT THE EMBASSY'S SUBSEQUENT DENIAL WAS FALSE. THE EMBASSY'S COMMENT THAT WE SHOULD "COORDINATE CLOSELY" WITH THE GOG ANY STATEMENT ON THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE TELEGRAM IS TRANSLATED INTO GREEK THAT WE "COOPERATE CLOSELY" WITH THE GOG IN MAKING OUR DENIAL -- A MISTRANSLATION WHICH GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF PLOTTING BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE GOG.

3. THE PHOTOCOPY IN EXORMISI APPEARS TO BE A REPRODUCTION FROM AN INCOMING STATE DEPARTMENT COPY OF THE EMBASSY'S TELEGRAM. ITS FORMAT SEEMS TO US TO BE THAT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REDUCED FORMAT REPRODUCTION TECHNIQUE. TO ACHIEVE THE TRUNCATED VERSION PUBLISHED BY EXORMISI, THE TELEGRAM WAS CUT OFF IMMEDIATELY BELOW THE SIGNATURE "MCCLOSKEY", PRESERVING THE FULL TEXT OF PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 WHILE ELIMINATING MOST OF PARAGRAPH 1 AND ALL OF PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF THE EMBASSY CABLE.

4. THE EXORMISI REPORT WAS PICKED UP THE SAME DAY, APRIL 9, BY ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER, LIBERAL-OPPOSITION TO VIMA, WHICH CARRIED A BRIEF FRONT PAGE SUMMARY OF IT. NONE OF MONDAY'S AFTERNOON PAPERS CARRIES THE STORY. HOWEVER, WE ARE RECEIVING INQUIRIES ABOUT THE EXORMISI REPORT TO WHICH WE ARE REPLYING AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: AN ATHENS NEWSPAPER ON SUNDAY, APRIL 9, REPRODUCED SELECTED PORTIONS OF A TELEGRAM SENT BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ATHENS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT A KEY PARAGRAPH OF THE TELEGRAM WAS OMITTED IN THE PUBLISHED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VERSION AND ITS TRANSLATION IN THE ARTICLE. THE OMITTED PARAGRAPH CLEARLY STATED THAT THE EMBASSY IDENTIFIED THE DOCUMENT, SUBMITTED BY MR. PAPANDREOU TO THE GREEK PARLIAMENT ON MARCH 17, AS A FORGERY. A CONFIRMATION OF THAT FACT WAS REQUESTED WITHOUT DELAY. THAT SAME DAY, WASHINGTON VERIFIED THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS FORGED AND THE EMBASSY ISSUED A NEWS RELEASE TO THAT EFFECT. QUOTE: THE OBVIOUS INTENT OF THSE WHO FORGED THE FIRST DOCUMENT WAS TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE US. THOSE WHO DISCLOSED SELECTIVE PORTIONS OF THE EMBASSY TELEGRAM COULD ONLY HAVE INTENDED TO CONFUSE PUBLIC OPINION. UNQUOTE.

5. ACTION REQUEST: THE EXORMISI STORY IS CLEARLY BASED ON AN UNAUTHORIZED LEAK OF A CLASSIFIED TELEGRAM (ATHENS 2205 CONFIDENTIAL). WE ASSUME THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THE RESULTS. MCCLOSKEY

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